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8 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**

9 **DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

10 K AND K PROMOTIONS, INC.,

Case No.: 2:20-cv-01753-JCM-NJK

11 Plaintiff,

**MOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE  
SECOND AMENDED COMPLAINT**

12 v.

13 WALT DISNEY STUDIOS MOTION  
PICTURES; PIXAR; and DISNEY STORE  
14 USA, LLC,

15 Defendants.

16

17 Plaintiff K and K Promotions, Inc. (“K&K”), by and through its counsel of record, hereby  
18 submit the following Motion for Leave to File a Second Amended Complaint (the “Proposed  
19 Amended Complaint”). A copy of K&K’s Proposed Amended Complaint is attached hereto as  
20 **Exhibit 1.**

21 **I. Introduction**

22 This suit is centered upon Defendants knowing and willful appropriation and infringement  
23 of intellectual property associated with the legendary daredevil, Evel Knievel, and owned by  
24 K&K at all times relevant to this suit. At the time this suit was filed, K&K was informed and  
25 believed that Defendants stealthily exploited the likeness and trade dress of Evel Knievel in  
26 promoting *Toy Story 4* and concurrently marketing and selling toy merchandise. [REDACTED]

27 [REDACTED]

1 [REDACTED]  
 2 [REDACTED] Given these  
 3 revelations, K&K desires to amend its Complaint to expressly allege these theories of liability,  
 4 which K&K could not have known at the time of the Complaint's filing. K&K respectfully  
 5 submits that "good cause" exists for amendment under these circumstances and that the Court  
 6 should grant the instant Motion accordingly.

7 **II. Legal Standard**

8 When a party moves to amend the pleadings after the expiration of the deadline established  
 9 in the scheduling order, courts review the motion through a two-step process. First, courts treat  
 10 the motion as seeking to amend the scheduling order, which is governed by the "good cause"  
 11 standard outlined in Rule 16(b). *See, e.g., Johnson v. Mammoth Recreations, Inc.*, 975 F.2d 604,  
 12 608 (9th Cir. 1992). "Rule 16(b)'s 'good cause' standard primarily considers the diligence of the  
 13 party seeking the amendment." *Id.* at 609. In particular, courts look to whether the deadline set  
 14 in the scheduling order "cannot reasonably be met despite the diligence of the party seeking the  
 15 extension." *Id.* (internal alteration omitted). Although prejudice to the opposing party may also  
 16 be considered, the inquiry focuses on the movant's reasons for seeking modification. *Id.* (internal  
 17 citation omitted). "If that party was not diligent, the inquiry should end." *Id.* The party seeking  
 18 amendment bears the burden of establishing diligence. *See, e.g., Morgal v. Maricopa Cty. Bd. of*  
 19 *Supervisors*, 284 F.R.D. 452, 460 (D. Ariz. 2012).

20 Once "good cause" has been established under Rule 16(b), courts will then examine  
 21 whether amendment is proper under the standards outlined in Rule 15(a). Rule 15(a) provides  
 22 that "the court should freely give leave [to amend] when justice so requires," and there is a strong  
 23 public policy in favor of permitting amendment. *Bowles v. Reade*, 198 F.3d 752, 757 (9th Cir.  
 24 1999). Therefore, the Ninth Circuit has made clear that Rule 15(a) is to be applied with "extreme  
 25 liberality." *Eminence Capital, LLC v. Aspeon, Inc.*, 316 F.3d 1048, 1051 (9th Cir. 2003) (per  
 26 curiam) (internal citations and alteration omitted). Under Rule 15(a), courts consider various  
 27 factors, including: (1) bad faith; (2) undue delay; (3) prejudice to the opposing party; (4) futility  
 28 of the amendment; and (5) whether the plaintiff has previously amended the complaint. *See id.* at

1 1052. These factors do not carry equal weight, however, and prejudice is the touchstone of the  
2 analysis. *See id.* The party opposing the amendment bears the burden of showing why leave to  
3 amend should be denied. *See, e.g., Desert Protective Council v. U.S. Dep’t of the Interior*, 927 F.  
4 Supp. 2d 949, 962 (S.D. Cal. 2013) (citing *Genentech, Inc. v. Abbott Labs.*, 127 F.R.D. 529, 530-  
5 31 (N.D. Cal. 1989)).

6 **III. Legal Argument**

7 **A. Good Cause Exists to Permit Amendment because the Proposed Amendment is  
8 based on Information Learned for the First Time in Discovery after the Deadline to  
9 Amend Pleadings Elapsed.**

10 During discovery K&K first identified the viability of additional, meritorious legal  
11 theories supporting its claim for violation of Nevada’s right to publicity statute and a claim under  
12 the Lanham Act. At the time this action was filed, K&K alleged upon information and belief that  
13 Defendants attempted to hide its infringement of Evel Knievel Intellectual Property by expressly  
14 instructing *Toy Story 4* cast members to avoid any public mention of “Evel Knievel” when  
15 discussing the new character “Duke Caboom.” *See* Compl. ¶ 68, ECF No. 18. Discovery has  
16 yielded not only the truth of this allegation, but has revealed a far more sinister sequence of events  
preceding this instruction to cast members.

17 [REDACTED]  
18 [REDACTED]  
19 [REDACTED]  
20 [REDACTED]  
21 [REDACTED]  
22 [REDACTED]  
23 [REDACTED]  
24 [REDACTED]  
25 [REDACTED]  
26 [REDACTED]  
27 [REDACTED]  
28

1       Further, discovery has revealed that Defendants used packaging for the classic Evel  
 2 Knievel Stunt Cycle as a model for packaging for Duke Caboom merchandise for commercial  
 3 sale by a licensee entity called “Thinkway.” *See id.* ¶ 36. This revelation cause K&K to  
 4 independently research Thinkway’s promotional advertising of the “Duke Caboom Stunt Cycle,”  
 5 which K&K discovered uses confusingly similar trademarks to those registered by K&K. *See id.*  
 6 ¶¶ 44, 76-77.

7       K&K anticipates in good faith that, because discovery is ongoing and K&K awaits the  
 8 production of several thousand additional documents, further information will only confirm and  
 9 bolster the allegations set forth in K&K’s Proposed Second Amended Complaint.

10      Because K&K *could not have* known the extent of Defendants’ commercial exploitation  
 11 of Evel Knievel’s rights of publicity and trademark, K&K could not have sought amendment  
 12 earlier under any circumstances. K&K respectfully submits that these circumstances warrant  
 13 modification of the scheduling order under Rule 16(b) in order to permit the filing of a second  
 14 amended complaint.

15 **B. K&K’s Proposed Amendment will have no discernable impact on this matter’s  
 16 proceedings because K&K’s new legal theories are within the same scope of claims  
 17 and defenses implicated under the operative Complaint.**

18      Under Rule 15(a), courts consider various factors, including: (1) bad faith; (2) undue  
 19 delay; (3) prejudice to the opposing party; (4) futility of the amendment; and (5) whether the  
 20 plaintiff has previously amended the complaint. *Eminence Capital, LLC v. Aspeon, Inc.*, 316 F.3d  
 21 1048, 1052 (9th Cir. 2003) (per curiam) (internal citations and alteration omitted). These factors  
 22 do not carry equal weight, however, and prejudice is the touchstone of the analysis. *See id.*

23      Here, the undue-delay factor favors amendment. “A strong presumption against a finding  
 24 of undue delay exists when a case is still in discovery,’ has no trial date pending, or if a pretrial  
 25 conference has yet to be scheduled.” *Int’l Game Tech. v. Illinois Nat’l Ins. Co.*, No. 2:16-CV-  
 26 2792-APG-NJK, 2018 WL 3028570, at \*4 (D. Nev. June 15, 2018) (quoting *Hologram USA, Inc.*  
 27 *v. Pulse Evolution Corp.*, 2015 WL 316900, at \*3 (D. Nev. Jan. 23, 2015) (citing *DCD Programs*,  
 28

1 *Ltd. v. Leighton*, 833 F.2d 183, 187–88 (9th Cir. 1987)). Here, this matter is still in discovery,<sup>1</sup>  
 2 without a trial date, and without a pretrial conference scheduled. K&K promptly filed the instant  
 3 Motion during the course of sifting through Defendants’ production of more than 50,000  
 4 documents. More specifically, [REDACTED]

5 [REDACTED] following Defendants’ production of its Fourth  
 6 Supplement to its Initial Disclosures, which Defendants produced on July 6, 2021. K&K’s action  
 7 in discovering these new legal theories, and confirming the viability of the same, illustrates there  
 8 is no basis for a finding of undue delay.

9 K&K’s instant Proposed Amended Complaint is sought in good faith. This Motion arises  
 10 from K&K’s review of over 58,000 documents produced by Defendants and, during the course  
 11 of the same, prompt identification of legal theories distinct from those pleadings in the operative  
 12 Complaint. Further, and as discussed below, K&K’s proposed amendment contains meritorious  
 13 claims based on the same scope of facts that make up the operative Complaint. In short, nothing  
 14 in this matter’s procedural history or record, generally, casts doubt on K&K’s good-faith basis in  
 15 seeking amendment. *Cf. Griggs v. Pace Am. Grp., Inc.*, 170 F.3d 877, 881 (9th Cir. 1999)  
 16 (explaining bad faith exists where, among other things, the proposed amendment “will not save  
 17 the complaint or the plaintiff merely is seeking to prolong the litigation by adding new but  
 18 baseless legal theories.”); *DCD Programs*, 833 F.2d at 187 (bad faith exists where party sought  
 19 leave to amend “to destroy diversity and to destroy the jurisdiction of this court” (internal  
 20 quotation marks omitted); *Thornton v. McClatchy Newspapers, Inc.*, 261 F.3d 789, 799 (9th Cir.  
 21 2001) (noting bad faith may be evidenced by a “history of dilatory tactics”).

22 Defendants will suffer no prejudice from the filing of an amendment complaint. Of the  
 23 *Foman* factors, prejudice to the opposing party carries the most weight. *Brown*, 953 F.3d at 574  
 24 (citing *Eminence Capital*, 316 F.3d at 1052). The party opposing amendment bear the burden of  
 25 showing prejudice. *Eminence Capital*, 316 F.3d at 1052 (citing *DCD Programs*, 833 F.2d at 187).  
 26 There is no conceivable basis for any prejudice to Defendants flowing from an amended  
 27

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28 <sup>1</sup> This Court granted the parties’ stipulation to extend fact discovery by 120 days, (ECF No. 38), further  
 minimizing any potential for prejudice arising from amendment.

1 complaint. As explained above, the Proposed Amended Complaint merely adds legal theories  
 2 under K&K's existing claim for violation of NRS 597.077 *et seq.*, the underlying facts of which  
 3 also apply to K&K's new claim for trademark infringement under the Lanham Act. These new  
 4 theories and singular new claim arise from the exact same scope of factual allegations pleaded in  
 5 the operative Complaint. Under such circumstances, Defendants cannot claim in good faith of  
 6 any prejudice arising from amendment. The remote potential for prejudice—to the extent of  
 7 any—is simply negated by the unchanged scope and nature of K&K's proposed amendments.

8 K&K's Proposed Amended Complaint is not futile. A proposed amendment is futile “only  
 9 if no set of facts can be proven under the amendment that would constitute a valid and sufficient  
 10 claim.” *Aiello v. Geico Gen. Ins. Co.*, 379 F. Supp. 3d 1123, 1129 (D. Nev. 2019) (citing *Miller*  
 11 v. *Rykoff-Sexton, Inc.*, 845 F.2d 209, 214 (9th Cir. 1988)). Indeed, courts in this District have  
 12 remarked that denying leave to amend on futility grounds is “rare,” concluding that “deferring  
 13 ruling on the sufficiency of the allegations is preferred in light of the more liberal standards  
 14 applicable to motions to amend and the fact that the parties’ arguments are better developed  
 15 through a motion to dismiss.” *See, e.g., Wilson*, 2015 WL 5310716, at \*2; *New England Life Ins.*  
 16 *Co. v. Lee*, No. 2:14-cv-01797-JCM-NJK, 2016 WL 9115952, at \*1 (D. Nev. Apr. 26, 2016).  
 17 K&K submits that the proposed amendments—again, incorporating an additional theory of  
 18 liability under the existing claim for violation of NRS 597.077 *et seq.*, as well as a claim for  
 19 trademark infringement based upon the same factual underpinnings—spell out meritorious claims  
 20 for relief. [REDACTED]

21 [REDACTED]  
 22 [REDACTED] And K&K's proposed addition of a Lanham Act trademark violation based  
 23 upon its use of “9-inch motorcycle daredevil,” easily constitutes infringement of K&K's  
 24 registered “7-inch daredevil” mark. Plaintiffs' Proposed Amended Complaint plausibly states  
 25 well-pleaded claims for relief under these facts. Plaintiffs have more than satisfied the futility  
 26 factor under *Foman*.

27 Finally, as to whether the complaint was previously amended, K&K submits that this  
 28 factor favors K&K or, at the very most, weighs neutrally under *Foman*. K&K's prior amended

1 complaint—filed pursuant to a stipulation between the parties—merely substituted parties based  
2 upon Defendants’ counsel’s representations as to the identities of the real parties in interest.  
3 K&K’s present proposed amendment, by way of contrast, changes no parties and retains the same  
4 scope of the operative Complaint.

5 **IV. Conclusion**

6 K&K respectfully seeks leave from this Court to file an amended complaint that  
7 incorporates meritorious legal theories identified for the first time during discovery. Under Rule  
8 16(b), amendment is proper under these circumstances. With respect to the Court’s Rule 15(a)  
9 inquiry, the interests of justice counsel in favor of amendment to permit K&K to seek recovery  
10 under its well-pleaded theories under state law and under the Lanham Act. Because amendment  
11 will cause no articulable prejudice to Defendants, is sought in good faith, and has no potential to  
12 delay these proceedings, the *Foman* factors weigh in K&K’s favor. Consistent with Rule  
13 15(a)(2), this Court should freely permit K&K to file the Proposed Amended Complaint.

14 DATED this 28th day of July, 2021

15  
16 /s/ J. Randall Jones  
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26  
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28

## **PROOF OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on the 28th day of July, 2021, I served a true and correct copy of the foregoing **PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE SECOND AMENDED COMPLAINT** via the United States District Court's CM/ECF electronic filing system to all parties on the e-service list.

/s/ Pamela Montgomery  
An employee of Kemp Jones LLP

# **EXHIBIT 1**

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8 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**

9 **DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

10 K AND K PROMOTIONS, INC.,

Case No.: 2:20-cv-01753-JCM-NJK

11 Plaintiff,

**[PROPOSED] SECOND AMENDED  
COMPLAINT**

12 v.

**JURY DEMAND**

13 WALT DISNEY STUDIOS MOTION  
PICTURES; PIXAR; and DISNEY STORE  
14 USA, LLC,

15 Defendants.

16

17 For their Second Amended Complaint against Defendants, Plaintiff K and K Promotions,  
18 Inc. (“K&K”) complain and allege as follows:

19 **NATURE OF ACTION**

20 K&K brings this intellectual property suit asserting claims arising under federal law, as  
21 well as pendent state law claims against Defendants for their knowing and willful appropriation  
22 and infringement of intellectual property associated with the legendary daredevil, Evel Knievel,  
23 and owned by K&K at all times relevant to this suit.

24 **PARTIES**

25 1. K&K Promotions, Inc. (“K&K”) is a Nevada corporation with its principal place  
26 of business in Clark County, Nevada.

27 2. Defendant Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures (“Walt Disney Studios”) is a

28

1 division of ABC, Inc., a New York corporation, a subsidiary of The Walt Disney Company, and  
2 has its principle place of business in Burbank, California.

3       3.     Defendant Pixar is a California corporation with its principal place of business in  
4 Emeryville, California. Pixar is organized and managed by “The Walt Disney Studios,” a division  
5 of The Walt Disney Company.

6           4.     Defendant Pixar is responsible for the production of *Toy Story 4* while Walt Disney  
7 Studios is responsible for distribution of the same. Pixar and Walt Disney Studios are hereinafter  
8 referred to collectively as “Disney Pixar.”

9       5.      Defendant Disney Store USA, LLC (“Disney Store USA”) is a Delaware  
10 corporation duly registered and licensed to do business in Nevada, with its principal place of  
11 business in Glendale, California.

12        6.        Disney Store USA presently owns and operates four Disney Store, Inc. brick and  
13 mortar retail stores in Las Vegas, Nevada. The locations of these stores are as follows: Disney  
14 Store (Fashion Show Mall), 3200 Las Vegas Boulevard South, Las Vegas, Nevada 89101; Disney  
15 Store (Las Vegas North Premium Outlets) 875 Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas, Nevada  
16 98106; Disney Store (Meadows Mall) 4300 Meadows Lane, Las Vegas, Nevada 89107; and  
17 Disney Store (Las Vegas South Premium Outlets) 7400 Las Vegas Boulevard South, Las Vegas,  
18 Nevada 89123.

## JURISDICTION/VENUE

20       7.     This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C.  
21 §§ 1331 and 1338(a). This Court has supplemental jurisdiction over K&K's state law claims  
22 pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1337(a).

23        8.     This Court has personal jurisdiction over Disney Pixar because, upon information  
24 and belief, Disney Pixar has created and instituted a multi-prong promotional and advertising  
25 campaign for *Toy Story 4* targeting Las Vegas, Nevada, including by deciding Las Vegas, Nevada  
26 would be the location for the announcement of *Toy Story 4*'s much-anticipated theatrical release  
27 date, *Toy Story 4*'s world exclusive premiere, the exclusive unveiling of *Toy Story 4*'s movie  
28 poster featuring infringing images, and a limited early release of *Toy Story 4*. Upon information

1 and belief, Disney Pixar has actively directed and overseen promotional and marketing campaigns  
2 taking place at various conventions and trade shows in Las Vegas, Nevada that prominently  
3 feature infringing film, images, and merchandise.

4 9. This Court further has personal jurisdiction over Disney Pixar based upon the  
5 following: (a) Disney Pixar has committed tortious acts within the State of Nevada that it knew  
6 or should have known would cause injury to K&K in the State of Nevada; (b) Disney Pixar has  
7 used infringing images and promoted its infringing film in the State of Nevada, including by  
8 hosting the film's exclusive, world-wide exclusive premiere in the State of Nevada; and (c)  
9 Disney Pixar has distributed infringing films and images in the State of Nevada by making such  
10 infringing images and films available at all major commercial movie theaters in the State of  
11 Nevada, including a limited early release of the film and images in the State of Nevada. Upon  
12 information and belief, Disney Pixar has actively directed and overseen and/or executed and  
13 carried out promotional and marketing campaigns taking place at various conventions and trade  
14 shows in Las Vegas, Nevada that prominently feature infringing film and images.

15 10. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Disney Store USA based upon its  
16 ownership and control over four retail entities in Las Vegas, Nevada, through which Disney Store  
17 USA has marketed and sold infringing products to customers in the State of Nevada.

18 11. Venue is proper in the United States District Court for the District of Nevada under  
19 28 U.S.C. § 1331(b), (c), and/or (d). Venue lies in the unofficial Southern District of this Court,  
20 where the Nevada Secretary of State registered the Evel Knievel Rights of Publicity. Venue is  
21 otherwise proper in this District because a substantial part of the events and acts giving rise to  
22 this Complaint have taken place in this judicial District.

23 **GENERAL ALLEGATIONS**

24 12. K&K is a Nevada corporation that owns the Evel Knievel rights and brand.

25 13. At all times relevant to this action, K&K is and has been the owner of intellectual  
26 property rights and publicity rights for Evel Knievel (collectively, the "Evel Knievel Intellectual  
27 Property"), pursuant to an assignment of rights dated October 31, 1998.

28

1           14. Under this agreement, Evel Knievel, prior to his death, conveyed and assigned to  
2 K&K ownership of the following intellectual property rights:

3           a. *Trademarks.* All trademarks, tradenames and service marks in the names  
4 “Robert Craig Knievel,” “Evel Knievel,” “Evel,” “Knievel,” and “EK” and such other names,  
5 pseudonyms, nicknames, trademarks, or monikers as Knievel may have used, or may use in the  
6 future.

7           b. *Copyrights.* All copyrights in any photograph, film, video tape, or other  
8 audio/visual work owned by Knievel, which captures or embodies the image, likeness, or voice  
9 of Knievel in any fashion.

10           c. *Rights of Publicity.* All rights of publicity and the right of privacy to be  
11 free from the commercial exploitation of the Knievel persona, as defined at common law, or  
12 through statute in the name, likeness, persona, photograph, signature, voice, image, distinctive  
13 characteristics, mannerism, gestures, or appearance of Evel Knievel.

14           d. *Beneficial Interests in Existing Licenses and Contracts.* All remaining  
15 rights to income and proceeds derived from licenses and grants made by Knievel during his  
16 lifetime that remain in effect after his death or to which Knievel or his estate is entitled.

17           15. K&K at all relevant times to this action owned Evel Knievel Intellectual Property  
18 including but not limited to the following:

19           a. Common-law rights in the name, likeness, image, and overall appearance  
20 of Evel Knievel used in association with entertainment and merchandise.

21           b. U.S. Federal Trademark Registration for trademarks related to Evel  
22 Knievel includes word marks “Evel Knievel,” Nos. 2481629, 2450740, 2864119, & 3666712;  
23 “Knievel,” Nos. 3666742, 3666713; “7 Inch Daredevil,” No. 4687838; as well as an assortment  
24 of others covering words and logos associated with Evel Knievel.

25           c. U.S. Copyright Registration for the documentary motion picture *Evel*  
26 *Knievel: Spectacular Stunts* (Reg No. PA0001819816, Sept. 27, 2012) and visual material *Evel*  
27 *Knievel: Unpublished Photographs* (Reg No. VAu001208885, April 10, 2013).

d. Nevada Registration for Right of Publicity for Evel Knievel under NRS 597.800, *et seq.* (Reg. Vol 1-101, Aug. 29, 2008).

## **The Likeness and Persona of Evel Knievel**

16. Evel Knievel's career as a motorcycle daredevil began in the 1960's, when he toured the United States performing death-defying ramp-to-ramp motorcycle jumps in the presence of captivated audiences and television cameras.

17. Evel Knievel gained international fame and recognition on December 31, 1967, when he famously attempted to jump his motorcycle off a ramp, over the fountain at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, and onto another ramp some 150 feet away. Observers watched in awe as Evel Knievel's motorcycle soared through the air and landed just short of the ramp, causing Evel to lose control of the vehicle's handlebars and bounce from the bike. Evel suffered a crushed pelvis and femur, fractures to his hip, wrist, and ankles, and sustained a severe concussion. In part, due to the fact that this jump ended in a crash landing and resulted in significant injuries, Evel Knievel quickly rose to household fame as film of the stunt gained repeated airplay on major U.S. television networks.



1       18. After recuperating, Evel continued to perform daring jumps on his motorcycle,  
 2 setting a world record in 1971 when he cleared 19 Dodge cars. In 1973, Evel thrilled a crowd of  
 3 35,000 in the Los Angeles Coliseum when he launched from a ski jump over 50 cars stacked atop  
 4 one another. On September 8, 1974, Evel Knievel attempted one of his most dangerous feats,  
 5 jumping his skycycle, equipped with a steam-powered rocket, over Idaho's Snake River Canyon.  
 6 This stunt was also unsuccessful, but continued to build Knievel's reputation as a national and  
 7 international personality.

8       19. By 1974, Evel Knievel had solidified his place in history as "America's Legendary  
 9 Daredevil."<sup>1</sup> Evel Knievel's status as a household name, however, was attributed "as much for  
 10 his daring jumps as for his catastrophic falls, earning himself the somewhat disparaging nickname  
 11 'Crash Knievel.'"<sup>2</sup> According to some observers, it was specifically Evel Knievel's "dramatic  
 12 crashes" that "elevated him to his status as the world's greatest stuntman."<sup>3</sup> As biographer Stuart  
 13 Barker put it, "[Evel's] fame had little to do with the stunts he successfully pulled off and  
 14 everything to do with the epic failures and wipeouts."<sup>4</sup>

15       20. In tandem with his reputation as America's premier stuntman, Evel Knievel  
 16 became equally known for his readily identifiable iconic wardrobe: a white jumpsuit embellished  
 17 only by star-spangled red, white, and blue patriotic insignia with a matching white cape and  
 18 helmet and a motorcycle adorned by red, white, and blue colors.



19  
 20       1 <https://www.biography.com/performer/evel-knievel>.  
 21  
 22       2 *Id.*  
 23  
 24       3 <https://www.history.com/news/evel-knievel-motorcycle-jump>  
 25       4 *Id.*

1       21. Corresponding to his reputation as daredevil, Evel Knievel also became well  
 2 known for performing his stunts on flat track motorcycles whose design features, particularly the  
 3 weight and suspension of such vehicles, make them less-than-ideal choices for landing airborne  
 4 hundred-foot jumps. Modern-day stunt motorcyclist Travis Pastrana, who in 2018 recreated Evel  
 5 Knievel's legendary jump at Caesars Palace, opted to attempt the stunt using an Indian bike  
 6 similar to the motorcycle Evel used in 1967. Commenting on the bike's suitability, Pastrana  
 7 stated, "My god, how did [Evel] get this tank in the air? In true Evel fashion, every time I jump  
 8 it it's scary. . . . It's super, super fast but it's not meant to fly."<sup>5</sup>

9       22. On May 26, 1975, Evel Knievel attempted his famous jump at Wembley Stadium  
 10 in London, England, which was featured on television so fans across the world could tune in to  
 11 the stuntman attempting to jump 13 English-deck buses. Akin to his famous jump at Caesars  
 12 Palace, Evel Knievel's landing went awry, tearing Evel off of the bike and breaking his back.

13       23. Evel was placed on a gurney from which he famously picked himself up, was  
 14 helped to the stadium's podium and made an announcement to the astonished crowd: "Ladies and  
 15 gentlemen of this wonderful country . . . I have to tell you that you are the last people in the world  
 16 who will see me jump. Because I will never, ever, ever jump again. I'm through." Evel struggled  
 17 away, without the aid of a stretcher, and left for a hospital.<sup>6</sup>

18       24. Evel Knievel's retirement proved premature as he continued performing stunts in  
 19 front of live audiences until the early 1980s. His next publicized feat, jumping over 14 Greyhound  
 20 buses back in the United States in Cincinnati, Ohio, was the single most watched, highest-rated  
 21 show on ABC's Wide World of Sports in History.

22       25. Notwithstanding his status as a fearless daredevil, Evel Knievel also demonstrated  
 23 humility by admitting the fear accompanying each death-defying stunt throughout his unmatched  
 24 career. In one of his final interviews before his death, Evel Knievel humbly remarked "Sure, I  
 25 was scared. You gotta be an ass not to be scared. But I beat the hell out of death."<sup>7</sup>

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26       <sup>5</sup> <https://nypost.com/2018/07/06/daredevil-hopes-to-best-evel-knievel-with-live-motorcycle-jumps/> .

27       <sup>6</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/06/29/arts/television/evel-knievel-travis-pastrana.html> .

28       <sup>7</sup> <https://www.biography.com/performer/evel-knievel> .

1                   Evel Knievel Merchandise

2                   26.     In 1973, Ideal Toys released the Evel Knievel Stunt Cycle, a toy which features a  
 3 doll of Evel Knievel in his signature red, white, and blue jumpsuit and matching helmet. The toy  
 4 includes a replica motorcycle with red, white, and blue colors featured. The toy comes with a red  
 5 “Energizer,” which users wind up with the toy attached and then release, causing the toy  
 6 motorcycle to propel forward.



19                   27.     A feature of the Stunt Cycle is the “doll’s ability to be bent into various poses.”<sup>8</sup>  
 20 Accordingly, as one observer noted, “[c]hildren everywhere could make their doll look just like  
 21 Evel at some of the key moments of his stunt career.”<sup>9</sup>

22                   28.     According to the book *Life of Evel: Evel Knievel*, “[t]he thrill of seeing Evel  
 23 losing his grip on the bike (which, like the real thing, happened more often than not) and wiping  
 24 out as to be cheered as enthusiastically as any safe landing, in true parallel with Knievel’s own  
 25 real-life audiences.”<sup>10</sup>

26

27                   <sup>8</sup> <https://kekbfm.com/remembering-the-greatest-toy-of-the-1970s-the-evel-knievel-stunt-cycle/>.

28                   <sup>9</sup> *Id.*

10 STUART BARKER, *LIFE OF KNIEVEL: EVEL KNIEVEL* 123 (St. Martin’s Press, 1979).

1       29.     As stated in *Evel: The High-Flying Life of Evel Knievel*, “[u]nlike GI Joe or other  
 2 action figures, which required a lot of imagination, Evel Knievel could provide action himself. . .  
 3 . . . Adjust his position at the takeoff and he did a wheelie. Put up a ramp, he climbed the ramp and  
 4 flew off into the unknown. . . . The crashes were wonderful. The motorcycle went flying. He went  
 5 flying in a different direction. Maybe his helmet flew off in a third direction. He did the strangest  
 6 things, landed in the strangest predicaments, and somehow always was able to get back on the  
 7 bike. Exactly like the real-life character.”<sup>11</sup>

8       30.     As such, the Evel Knievel Stunt Cycle became “the perfect diversions for little  
 9 daredevils who loved crashing just as much as they did accomplishing a jump.”<sup>12</sup>

10      31.     In conjunction with release of the Stunt Cycle, Ideal Toys created a series of  
 11 television advertisements which displayed, among other things, the following images.



27      <sup>11</sup> LEIGH MONTVILLE, *EVEL: THE HIGH-FLYING LIFE OF EVEL Knievel: AMERICAN SHOWMAN, DAREDEVIL, AND LEGEND* 166-67 (Anchor Books et al., 2012).

28      <sup>12</sup> SHARON M. SCOTT, *TOYS AND AMERICAN CULTURE: AN ENCYCLOPEDIA* 104 (ABC CLIO, 2010).



32. While the commercials promised the toy would deliver “Gyro power, sending [Evel] over 100ft at top speed . . . up and over that four-foot ditch,” observers fondly recall the nostalgia associated with the toy’s more modest performance: “[R]amps made from Beano annuals, collisions with vases, and riding over peoples feet or into drains and fireplaces.”<sup>13</sup>

33. The Evel Knievel Stunt Cycle would go on to generate millions of dollars’ worth of sales and profits.

34. The Evel Knievel Stunt Cycle was the number one selling toy line of 1973– 1977 and is recognized by American Classic Toys, Inc. as the “Greatest Action Toy.”

**Defendants’ Unlawful Use of K&K’s Intellectual Property in Pitching “Duke Caboom” as an Iteration of “Evel Knievel” for Commercial Exploitation of Merchandise and to Generate Buzz for the yet-to-be released Toy Story 4**

35. [REDACTED]

36. [REDACTED]

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-32830377>.

1 37. [REDACTED]  
2 [REDACTED]  
3 [REDACTED]  
4 38. [REDACTED]  
5 [REDACTED]  
6 [REDACTED]  
7 [REDACTED]  
8 [REDACTED]  
9 [REDACTED]  
10 39. [REDACTED]  
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13 40. [REDACTED]  
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15 41. [REDACTED]  
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17 [REDACTED]  
18 [REDACTED]  
19 42. [REDACTED]  
20 [REDACTED]  
21 [REDACTED]  
22 43. [REDACTED]  
23 [REDACTED]  
24 44. [REDACTED]  
25 [REDACTED]  
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28

1 [REDACTED]

2 [REDACTED]

3 45. In April 2018, Disney Pixar revealed the long-awaited release date for *Toy Story*  
4 at the annual CinemaCon event in Las Vegas, Nevada.

5 46. Less than a year later, in April 2019, Disney Pixar again took the stage at  
6 CinemaCon in Las Vegas, Nevada and screened the exclusive premiere of the first 17 minutes of  
7 *Toy Story 4*. At the event, taking place at Caesars Palace, Defendants displayed a room-size  
8 poster of *Toy Story 4*, with its new character, “Duke Caboom,” featured prominently on the top  
9 left of the poster.



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18  
19 47. Consistent with Pixar’s Duke Caboom mantra, “Think Evel Knievel,” the poster’s depiction of “Duke Caboom”—whom the consuming public has yet to be introduced to—is sufficiently crude to implant Evel Knievel in the minds of attendees.

20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26 48. Prior to the film’s official release date, Disney Pixar chose select locations, including several in Nevada, where the film could be seen on June 20, 2019, a day before the film’s worldwide release to the general public. Upon release to the general public, these Defendants made *Toy Story 4* viewable at all major movie theaters in Las Vegas, Nevada.

27

28

1                   **Defendants' Unlawful Use of K&K's Intellectual Property in Toy Story 4**

2                   49.     Disney Pixar released *Toy Story 4* worldwide on June 21, 2019, which featured a  
 3 new character named "Duke Caboom," voiced by Keanu Reeves.

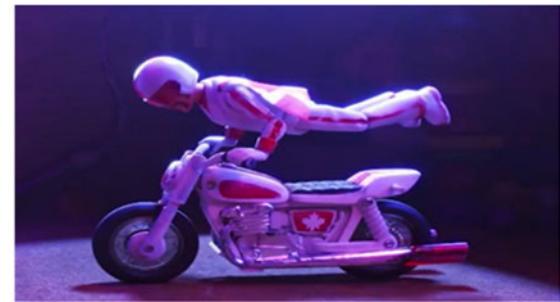
4                   50.     Disney Pixar's official description of the character is as follows:

5                   *Duke Caboom is a 1970s toy based on Canada's greatest stuntman. Riding his  
 6 powerful Caboom stunt-cycle, Duke is always prepared to show off his stunt poses  
 7 with confidence and swagger. However, Woody learns quickly that Duke has an  
 8 Achilles heel: He has never been able to do the awesome stunts advertised in his  
 9 own toy commercial. For years, Duke has been sitting in an antique store,  
 10 constantly reliving the failures of his tragic past.*

11                   51.     The film's protagonist, "Woody," voiced by Tom Hanks, is first introduced to  
 12 Duke Caboom in an antique toy store by "Bo Peep," Woody's love interest. Woody and Bo Peep  
 13 seek to enlist Duke Caboom's help in rescuing a runaway toy named "Forky," who is being held  
 14 hostage by "Gabby Gabby," the film's antagonist.

15                   52.     Duke Caboom first emerges riding on a Canadian-flag colored motorcycle and  
 16 dressed in a white jumpsuit, helmet, and cape with Canadian insignia, with 70's-era Motown jazz  
 17 playing during his entrance. Duke Caboom's first line in the film is "look who jumped 40 buses  
 18 and landed back into my life."

19                   53.     Duke Caboom then introduces himself to Woody as "Duke Caboom, Canada's  
 20 greatest stuntman," before proceeding to strike a series of poses on his motorcycle, evocative of  
 21 the classic Evel Knievel Stunt Cycle commercials.



25                   54.     Bo Peep then explains how Duke Caboom can help Woody find Forky in the  
 26 antique store: "Here's the plan, we need to jump over the aisle to Gabby's cabinet and you are the  
 27 toy to do it."

1       55. Duke Caboom initially refuses, revealing insecurity about his abilities as a  
 2 stuntman. Duke Caboom then explains the origin of his insecurity through a flashback to when  
 3 his former child owner, Rejean, rejected him as a toy.

4       56. The viewers are then taken back in time and introduced to a Rejean, playing with  
 5 his Duke Caboom doll while watching a commercial advertisement for the “Duke Caboom Stunt  
 6 Cycle,” as identified by the commercial’s announcer. The commercial features grainy, 70s-era  
 7 muted colors, and shows a child pumping the Duke Caboom Stunt Cycle, causing the toy to  
 8 accelerate over a ramp and through a makeshift ring of fire and over a hockey stadium.



16       57. With the “Duke Caboom Stunt Cycle” commercial playing in the background,  
 17 Rejean tries to imitate a jump through a makeshift ring of fire as seen in the commercial, only to  
 18 be dismayed that the toy could not perform as advertised in the television spot. According to  
 19 Duke Caboom’s telling of the story, “when Rejean realized I couldn’t jump as far as the toy in  
 20 the commercial . . . Rejean threw me away!”



27       58. As Duke Caboom erupts into tears over this memory, Bo Peep cheers him up by  
 28 reminding him “right now we need the only toy who can crash us onto Gabby’s cabinet! Any

1 Duke Caboom toy can *land*. But you are the only one that can *crash* the way you do. . . .Forget  
2 the commercial. Be the Duke you are right now—the one who jumps and crashes!"

3       59.    Later in the film, Woody and Duke board Duke Caboom's motorcycle together  
4 and, in preparation for jumping over the antique toy store's aisle onto the cabinet, Woody and  
5 Duke Caboom attach the motorcycle onto the red "Energizer"/propeller function.

6 60. Prior to the stunt, Bo Peep seeks to calm Woody's nerves by stating, "you'll be  
7 fine, Duke's the best," to which Woody responds, "yeah . . . *at crashing*."

8        61. After another toy initiates the stunt cycle's "Energizer," Duke Caboom and Woody  
9 begin accelerating on the motorcycle toward a ramp from which they intend to launch over the  
10 aisle and onto the cabinet across the room. While Woody successfully lands on top of the target  
11 cabinet, Duke Caboom falls to the floor.

12        62. In Duke Caboom's climax stunt, he is encouraged to jump 40 feet across an  
13 amusement park and through lights fabricated to look like a ring of fire. Once again, Duke  
14 Caboom completes most of the jump, only to fall off of his motorcycle and land on the concrete.

**Defendants' Promotion of *Toy Story 4* with Advertisements and Marketing Initiatives Focused on Duke Caboom in a Manner that Amounts to Sheer Commercial Exploitation of Evel Knievel Intellectual Property**

18       63.     In anticipation of *Toy Story 4*'s release, Defendants initiated a promotional  
19 campaign that highlighted the franchise's introduction of Duke Caboom, but with the intention of  
20 exploiting the commercial value of the name "Evel Knievel," and confusing the consuming public  
21 into believing the yet-to-be released film was associated with, and/or endorsed by, Evel Knievel's  
Intellectual Property rights holders.

64.

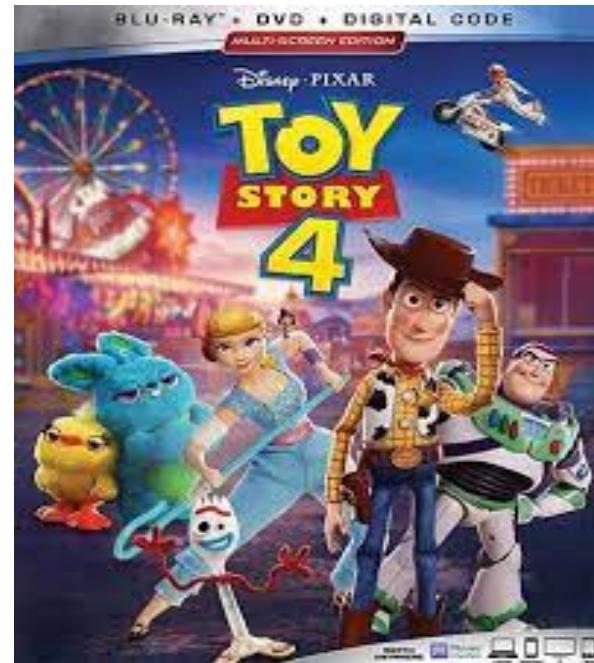
65.

1 [REDACTED]  
2 [REDACTED]  
3 66. [REDACTED]  
4 [REDACTED]  
5 [REDACTED]  
6 67. [REDACTED]  
7 [REDACTED]  
8 [REDACTED]  
9 68. [REDACTED]  
10 [REDACTED]  
11 [REDACTED]  
12 a. In *The Wrap*, Alonso Duralde described Duke Caboom as “an Evel Knievel-esque  
13 Canadian stunt-motorcyclist action figure.”  
14 b. In *Screen Crush*, Matt Singer stated Duke Caboom was “an Evel Knievel inspired  
15 motorcycle daredevil.”  
16 c. *BBC Culture*’s Nicholas Barner referred to Duke Caboom as “a Canadian Evel  
17 Knievel-type figure.”  
18 d. *The Times*’ Kevin Maher wrote Duke Caboom is “a motorbike-loving Evel  
19 Knievel knock-off from Canada.”  
20 e. In *The Independent*, Geoffrey Macnab wrote Duke Caboom is “an Evel Knievel-  
21 like Canadian motorbike stunt rider.”  
22 f. In *The Financial Times*, Nigel Andrews stated Duke Caboom is “a kiddie-toy Evel  
23 Knievel with the voice of Keanu Reeves.”  
24 69. [REDACTED]  
25 [REDACTED]  
26 \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>14</sup> <https://comicbook.com/movies/news/toy-story-4-keanu-reeves-duke-caboom-confirmed-disney-pixar/>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.cinemablend.com/news/2469149/christina-hendricks-toy-story-4-character-sounds-super-creepy>

1 [REDACTED]  
2 [REDACTED]  
3 [REDACTED]  
4 70. [REDACTED]  
5 [REDACTED]  
6 [REDACTED]  
7 [REDACTED]  
8 [REDACTED]  
9 71. [REDACTED]  
10 [REDACTED]  
11 [REDACTED]  
12 [REDACTED]  
13 [REDACTED]  
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28

## **Defendants' Marketing Campaign Emphasizing Duke Caboom's Role in *Toy Story 4* to Boost Merchandise and Ticket Sales**

72. On May 2, 2019, Greg Mason, Vice President of Marketing for Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures Canada, appeared on the Canadian morning show Breakfast Television specifically to generate buzz for Duke Caboom—both as a *Toy Story 4* character and as the subject of a new line of toy merchandise, which Mason announced had “just hit the shelves.”

73. Mason reassured viewers of the centrality of Duke Caboom's roll in the yet-to-be-released film: "*We're thrilled that Duke Caboom is a main character in Toy Story 4, it's not a cameo*, played by Keanu Reeves and we're really excited for the world to see him."

74. Defendants also aired a series of promotional ads featuring Duke Caboom, with at least one spot exclusively dedicated to Duke Caboom. In this ad, clips of Duke Caboom show the character performing a series of motorcycle jumps while a Duke Caboom-themed song plays in the background with the lyrics “He’s the most spectacular daredevil Canada has ever seen!”

75. The spot features Duke Caboom leaping in his motorcycle, the 70's-era mock commercial shown in *Toy Story 4*, Duke Caboom's various poses on his motorcycle and, of course, Duke Caboom crashing.

**Defendants' Exploitation of Duke Caboom Merchandise using Evel Knievel's likeness and employing a catch-phrase confusingly similar to trademarks registered by K&K**

76. Given the fanfare surrounding *Toy Story 4*'s introduction of Duke Caboom to the franchise, Defendants began a campaign to exploit Duke Caboom by manufacturing, packaging, labeling, and selling merchandise featuring the character.

77. Defendants introduced merchandise called the “Disney Pixar Toy Story Stunt Racer Duke Caboom,” featuring a Duke Caboom doll in the signature white jumpsuit with a cape and belt buckle adorned by red Canadian insignia, and matching helmet and motorcycle. The toy also comes with a red “launcher” which, when pumped, “send[s] Duke and his bike on a zooming ride up to 15 feet!”



78. Tellingly, Defendants do not label this toy the “Duke Caboom Stunt Cycle,” the name given to the merchandise in the fictional mock-up commercial featured in *Toy Story 4*.

79. Defendants did, however, sublicense a version of “Duke Caboom Stunt Cycle,” using the phrase “9-inch Motorcycle Daredevil,” in their promotions of Duke Caboom merchandise, which is confusingly similar to the K&K-owned trademark “7-inch Daredevil.”

80. For example, in the October 2019 edition of *Toy World*, the following full-page advertisement is featured for “Duke Caboom,” which is a clear attempt to exploit the commercial value of Evel Knievel by using a substantially similar phrase to the “7-inch Daredevil” trademark registered by K&K.



1       81.     In addition to the so-called “Disney Pixar Toy Story Stunt Racer Duke Caboom,”  
 2 Defendants are also manufacturing, distributing, and selling other Duke Caboom merchandise  
 3 including but not limited to “Disney Pixar’s Toy Story Duke Caboom’s Stunt Show 10767  
 4 Building Kit” and the “Fisher-Price Disney Pixar Toy Story 4 Stuntman,” both pictured below.



15       82.     Defendants’ promotional campaign consisted of flooding the Nevada market with  
 16 Duke Caboom toys, apparel, and other merchandise and offering the same at local retail outlets  
 17 including Target, Kohl’s, Party City, Game Shop, Walmart, Big Lots, Best Buy, Dollar Tree, and  
 18 McDonalds (as part of a “Happy Meal” promotion).

19       83.     Defendants also sold and continue to sell Duke Caboom merchandise through its  
 20 interactive website, [www.shopdisney.com](http://www.shopdisney.com), which allows site visitors to access the inventory of  
 21 local retailers, including those in Nevada, by clicking the site’s “Store Locator & Events” tab.  
 22 Even without inserting one’s city, state, or zip code the website automatically alerts users whether  
 23 a given product is available for purchase at a local store.

24       84.     Four of Defendant’s retail stores are located in the State of Nevada, at which  
 25 Defendants sold and continue to sell Duke Caboom merchandise.

1                   **Defendants' Acknowledgement of Evel Knievel's Inspiration for Duke Caboom**

2               85.    *Toy Story 4* producer Mark Nielsen, when asked about the inspiration for Duke  
 3 Caboom, explained that “Jonas Rivera and I, the producers, grew up in the '70s, so the toys that  
 4 we've latched onto were the ones along those lines.” Nielson continued “Duke Kaboom is a  
 5 character that's straight out of the '70s childhood that I had and that Jonas had.”<sup>16</sup>

6               86.    Similarly, producer Jonas Rivera explained to the Washington Post that Duke  
 7 Caboom was initially intended to be a “gag character,” which the Post noted represented “a  
 8 stuntman evocative of Evel Knievel’s era.”<sup>17</sup>

9               87.    Director Josh Cooley echoed these statements, commenting that “a lot of the new  
 10 toys came from us, kids of the '70s and '80s, so Duke Caboom was a stunt toy and those were  
 11 big in the '70s.”<sup>18</sup>

12               88.    When the Chicago Tribune interviewed Josh Cooley about the inspiration for Duke  
 13 Caboom, the newspaper summarized the basis for the character as follows: “Duke Caboom is the  
 14 Canuck version of that Evel Knievel toy that looked awesome on TV but couldn’t quite do those  
 15 advertised stunts once you got it home.”<sup>19</sup>

16               89.    Tom Hanks gave a public interview on December 14, 2018, when he was asked  
 17 which new character is “most intriguing” to him. Hanks responded: “Oh, I love Duke Kaboom  
 18 because he’s the Canadian Evel Knievel and just that concept alone is hilarious. Then they got  
 19 Keanu Reeves.”

20               90.    On April 20, 2019, Hanks similarly answered a question about Duke Caboom in a  
 21 public question-and-answer session by asserting: “[W]hen [it] was explained to me [that] Duke  
 22 Caboom was the Canadian Evel Knievel I just completely got it.”

23

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24               <sup>16</sup> <https://www.syfy.com/syfywire/how-toy-story-4-modernized-its-toys-and-why-it-almost-introduced-an-ipad-character>.

25               <sup>17</sup> <https://www.washingtonpost.com/arts-entertainment/2019/06/25/best-secrets-surprises-easter-eggs-toy-story/>.

26               <sup>18</sup> <https://torontosun.com/entertainment/movies/toy-story-4-director-producers-on-bringing-back-bo-peep-alternate-storylines-and-returning-for-toy-story-5>.

27               <sup>19</sup> [https://digitaledition.chicagotribune.com/tribune/article\\_popover.aspx?guid=1ebc3d8e-4ab8-483e-b7c6-6bbca03804b1](https://digitaledition.chicagotribune.com/tribune/article_popover.aspx?guid=1ebc3d8e-4ab8-483e-b7c6-6bbca03804b1).

1       91. At some point, on or about April 2019, Defendants expressly instructed cast  
 2 members to avoid drawing any public association between Duke Caboom and Evel Knievel, even  
 3 if directly asked. Prior to the *Toy Story 4*'s theatrical release, Entertainment Tonight hosted the  
 4 film's cast to promote the film. In a telling exchange, the cast attempted to address the  
 5 interviewer's question as to why the new character "Forky" was not named "Sporky," given the  
 6 character's closer resemblance to a spork.<sup>20</sup> Unbeknownst to the interviewer, the filmmakers in  
 7 fact "originally wanted to name the character 'Sporky,' but the word 'spork' was trademarked."<sup>21</sup>

8       92. Actor Tom Hale, who provided the voice for Forky, struggled to answer as Tom  
 9 Hanks pulled a document out of his pocket, handed it to Hale and instructed him to "look at these  
 10 talking points."

11       93. As Hanks hands the talking points to Hale, Hanks points to the talking points in  
 12 an exaggerated manner and cautions "do not say spork," to which Tim Allen also chimes in, "do  
 13 not say spork!" As the cast members shared awkward laughter, Tim Allen draws out the words  
 14 "you don't want to go there."

15       94. Tim Allen then suddenly points to Keanu Reeves and says excitedly: "We were  
 16 going to call you Evel Knievel!" In response, Tom Hanks elongates the word "hey" and Hale  
 17 waives his arms to signify the topic is taboo. Tom Hanks proceeds to pantomime a "cut" gesture  
 18 with his fingers, suggesting this back-and-forth ought to be removed from the interview.

19       95. Keanu Reeves, noticeably agitated and embarrassed, promptly pivots the  
 20 conversation back to the purportedly innocuous reason the filmmakers avoided the name  
 21 "Sporky."

22       96. To the extent there is any doubt that the cast members were deliberately skirting  
 23 the subject of intellectual property theft, Tim Allen put the issue to rest in a subsequent interview  
 24 days later. When asked why Forky was not simply named "Sporky," Allen responded "It could

25  
 26  
 27<sup>20</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4KZODJfPKN4&t=236s>.

28<sup>21</sup> Jesse Rifkin, *Go Fourth: Woody, Buzz Lightyear, and the Gang Return in Disney/Pixar's Toy Story 4*, BOX OFFICE MAGAZINE (June 2019),  
<https://www.yumpu.com/en/document/read/62687819/boxoffice-june-2019>.

1 be me, but I think it's the Colonel Sanders problem. I think they own that. . . ." The interviewer  
 2 follows up asking "it's trademarked?" to which Allen rhetorically asks "Who wants to mess with  
 3 Colonel Sanders?"<sup>22</sup>

4 97. In a separate promotional red-carpet interview with People TV, the interviewer  
 5 asserts in a factual manner to Keanu Reeves that "Duke Caboom . . . is sort of like an Evel Knievel  
 6 kind of type," to which the interviewer apparently expected an answer in agreement. Instead,  
 7 Reeves responds by looking away, thinking out loud with an audible sigh, and then remarking  
 8 without expression "no . . . he rides a motorcycle."<sup>23</sup>

9 **Critics and Consumers Take Note of Defendants' Appropriation of the**  
 10 **Evel Knievel Intellectual Property**

11 98. Notwithstanding the filmmakers' guarded approach to addressing the clear  
 12 parallels between Evel Knievel and Duke Caboom, film reviewers universally caught on to the  
 13 connection.

14 99. In his review of *Toy Story 4* for RogerEbert.com, Matt Zoller Seitz described Duke  
 15 Caboom as follows: "Keanu Reeves as Duke Caboom, an Evel Knievel-styled motorcycle rider  
 16 who describes himself as the greatest stuntman in Canada."<sup>24</sup>

17 100. The Star, a daily newspaper in Canada, identified Duke Caboom as "the  
 18 outrageously patriotic daredevil" and "an Evel Knievel-type stuntman full of national pride and  
 19 bravado."<sup>25</sup>

20 101. The Insider's "10 things you didn't know about 'Toy Story 4'" listed as number 8  
 21 "Duke Caboom was inspired by a real person," and states "it turns out the toy was inspired by a  
 22 real-life stuntman, Evel Knievel."<sup>26</sup>

23 102. The website Cinema Blend, describes Duke Caboom as "Canada's greatest  
 24 stuntman, an Evel Knievel-type character known for his daredevil motorcycle stunts." The piece

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25 <sup>22</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BmFaT13qKI8>

26 <sup>23</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wp5VACD-t6I&t=2773s>.

27 <sup>24</sup> <https://www.rogerebert.com/reviews/toy-story-4-2019>.

28 <sup>25</sup> <https://www.thestar.com/entertainment/movies/2019/06/21/toy-story-4-debuts-a-canadian-character-that-eight-canadian-animators-helped-bring-to-life.html>.

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.insider.com/fun-facts-about-toy-story-4-2019-7>.

1 also picks up on Defendants' nearly carbon-copy version of a real Evel Knievel Stunt Cycle  
 2 advertisement from the 1970's: "If you're curious, you can check out the video below to see a  
 3 commercial for the Evel Knievel Stunt Cycle toy that clearly served as some inspiration for Keanu  
 4 Reeves' Duke Caboom."<sup>27</sup>

5 103. The Toronto Sun explained that *Toy Story 4* would introduce "a host of new  
 6 characters, including Evel-Knievel-like Duke Caboom (Keanu Reeves)."<sup>28</sup>

7 104. American film critic James Berardinelli went further, stating *Toy Story 4* features  
 8 "the Canadian Evel Knievel knockoff, Duke Caboom (Keanu Reeves)."<sup>29</sup>

9 105. A movie review from ABC News noted that Duke Caboom is "1970's-era  
 10 daredevil" who is "inspired by 1970s American icon Evel Knievel."<sup>30</sup>

11 106. Live for Film reviewer Alan Simmons identified Duke Caboom as a "Canadian  
 12 Evel Knievel rip-off stunt cycle rider Duke Caboom (Reeves)."<sup>31</sup>

13 107. The MacGuffen described Duke Caboom as "a Canadian daredevil toy in the likes  
 14 of Evel Knievel. Duke's dream of pulling off a big motorcycle jump is put to good use, both plot  
 15 wise and in terms of slapstick."<sup>32</sup>

16 108. The Charlotte Observer noted Duke Caboom represented "the Canadian Evel  
 17 Knievel knockoff."<sup>33</sup>

18 109. Forbes characterized Duke Caboom as "a Canadian-themed cyclist toy based on  
 19 the popular '70s Evel Knievel stunt cycle that almost never worked as advertised," and deduced  
 20 that "you can tell this is a movie made by adults who still like to play with their toys."<sup>34</sup>

22  
 23 <sup>27</sup> <https://www.cinemablend.com/news/2471177/new-toy-story-4-video-shows-off-keanu-reeves-duke-caboom>.

24 <sup>28</sup> <https://torontosun.com/entertainment/movies/toy-story-4-director-producers-on-bringing-back-bo-peep-alternate-storylines-and-returning-for-toy-story-5>.

25 <sup>29</sup> <https://www.reelviews.net/reelviews/toy-story-4>.

26 <sup>30</sup> <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-06-19/toy-story-4-review-disney-franchise-resets-with-keanu/11220590>.

27 <sup>31</sup> <https://www.liveforfilm.com/2019/06/21/review-toy-story-4-funny-and-excitely-weird>.

28 <sup>32</sup> <https://macguff.in/film-reviews/film-review-toy-story-4/>.

29 <sup>33</sup> [http://events.charlotteobserver.com/movie.aspx?review=1&movie\\_id=202138](http://events.charlotteobserver.com/movie.aspx?review=1&movie_id=202138).

30 <sup>34</sup> <https://www.forbes.com/sites/lukethompson/2019/10/09/blu-ray-review-forky-meets-4k-with-toy-story-4/#434a3ab7235c>.

1           110. K&K alleges that the aforementioned references to Evel Knievel were a result of  
 2 these film critics' unprompted association of Duke Caboom and Evel Knievel, given their clear  
 3 similarities, or, alternatively, a result of Defendants' writings and press releases (or "press kits")  
 4 disseminated to national and international media outlets expressly describing Duke Caboom by  
 5 explicitly using the name "Evel Knievel," to boost ticket sales.

6           111. Consumers similarly picked up on the connection with respect to Duke Caboom  
 7 as portrayed in *Toy Story 4* and Defendants' associated merchandise.

8           112. Across Twitter and the comment/review boards of online retailers, consumers  
 9 posted about the similarities between Duke Caboom and Evel Knievel with many under the  
 10 impression that Evel Knievel is associated with the Duke Caboom the character or that Duke  
 11 Caboom is indeed supposed to represent Evel Knievel voiced by Keanu Reeves.

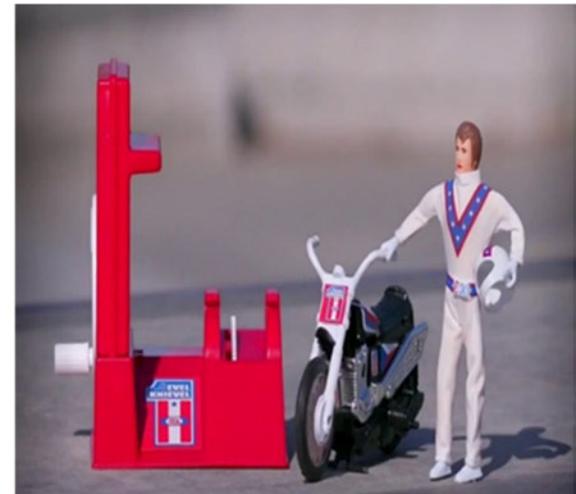
12           113. Consumers further took to social media and retailer review boards to remark on  
 13 the stark differences in quality and functionality between the classic Evel Knievel Stunt Cycle  
 14 and Defendants' Duke Caboom action figure.

15           **Evel Knievel and Duke Caboom: Side-by-Side Comparison**

16           *Duke Caboom*



17           *Evel Knievel*





**FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
**(Right to Publicity, NRS 597.770, *et seq.*)**

114. K&K repeats, realleges, and incorporates the allegations set forth in the preceding  
115. paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

116. Throughout his career, Evel Knievel gained world-wide notoriety as a motorcycle  
117. stuntman and correspondingly acquired valuable goodwill and commercial value in his persona  
118. including but not limited to his persona as the quintessential patriotic daredevil on a motorcycle,  
119. well-known reputation for attempting but often falling short with respect to death-defying ramp-  
120. to-ramp jumps, and readily identifiable white-jumpsuit wardrobe and helmet with patriotic  
121. insignia.

1       116. Under Nevada law, the goodwill and commercial value in Evel Knievel's name,  
2 persona, reputation, and image, among other things, creates an absolute and transferable property  
3 right in such goodwill and commercial value.

4       117. K&K, as successor-in-interest to all Evel Knievel Intellectual Property and  
5 assignee to Evel Knievel's rights of publicity pursuant to a valid registration with the Nevada  
6 Secretary of State, has exclusive ownership and rights to all goodwill and commercial value  
7 arising from use of Evel Knievel's image and likeness.

8       118. [REDACTED]

9 [REDACTED]

10 [REDACTED]

11 [REDACTED]

12 [REDACTED]

13 [REDACTED]

14       119. Defendants have also used in commerce, and continue to use in commerce, the  
15 likeness, reputation, and image of Evel Knievel in the film *Toy Story 4* through Defendants'  
16 depiction of Duke Caboom, and has exploited the same connection through marketing, promotion,  
17 advertising, and sales of *Toy Story 4*, and in connection with the manufacturing, distribution,  
18 marketing, advertising, promotion, and sales of the Duke Caboom action figure, all without the  
19 consent or approval of K&K.

20       120. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' unlawful appropriation of Evel  
21 Knievel's rights of publicity under NRS 597.800, K&K has suffered, and will continue to suffer,  
22 monetary damages to its business, reputation, and goodwill.

23       121. At all relevant times, Defendants were aware or should have been aware that K&K,  
24 as successor-in-interest to the Evel Knievel rights of publicity, was the only entity that could  
25 consent to the commercial use of Evel Knievel's name, voice, signature, photograph, and/or  
26 likeness, and Defendants failed and declined to obtain such consent from K&K.

27       122. In light of Defendants' intentional and willful infringement of the Evel Knievel  
28 rights of publicity, K&K is entitled to an award of exemplary and/or punitive damages.

**SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
(Trademark Infringement and/or Contributory Trademark Infringement, 15 U.S.C. § 1114)

123. K&K repeats, realleges, and incorporates the allegations set forth in the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

124. Defendants have used and/or are using in commerce Duke Caboom merchandise bearing Evel Knievel Intellectual Property, specifically "9-inch motorcycle daredevil," a confusingly similar mark to that owned by K&K, the registered trademark "7-inch Daredevil."

Age Group	Percentage
8	100%
9	100%
10	100%
11	100%
12	100%

13        126. Defendants' use in commerce of K&K's mark constitutes a reproduction, copying,  
14 counterfeiting, and colorable imitation of K&K's trademark in a manner that is likely to cause  
15 confuse or mistake or is likely to deceive consumers, particularly given the obvious similarities  
16 between the character Duke Caboom and Evel Knievel, and between the "Duke Caboom Stunt  
17 Cycle," and the Evel Knievel Stunt Cycle, for which consumers readily identify as being  
18 associated with Evel Knievel.

19 127. By using K&K-owned and registered Evel Knievel Intellectual Property with the  
20 knowledge that K&K owns the exclusive and enforceable licenses to use the same, Defendants  
21 have intended to cause confusion, cause mistake, or deceive consumers.

22        128. Defendants are using a mark identical to K&K's Evel Knievel mark, and a mark  
23 confusingly similar to K&K's 7-inch Daredevil mark in connection with the promotion,  
24 marketing, and sales of Toy Story 4, and the distribution, manufacture, and sales of Duke Caboom  
25 merchandise, in a manner likely to cause confusion, or to cause mistake, or to deceive consumers  
26 as to affiliation, connection, or association with K&K as to the origin, sponsorship, or approval  
27 of Defendants' products.

129. Defendants' use of the aforementioned Evel Knievel Intellectual Property has created a likelihood of confusion among consumers who may believe by mistake that Defendants' products are associated with K&K's commercial use of the same, both through films and toy merchandise, or that K&K sponsors or approves of Defendants' products and commercial activities.

130. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' infringement, K&K has suffered, and will continue to suffer, monetary damages in excess of \$75,000, and irreparable injury to its business, reputation, and goodwill.

**THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
(Trade Dress Infringement, 15 U.S.C. § 1125)

131. K&K repeats, realleges, and incorporates the allegations set forth in the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

132. K&K is the owner of valid and protectable statutory and common-law trademark rights with respect to Evel Knievel Intellectual Property, including trade dress rights.

133. The trade dress associated with Evel Knievel is non-functional and has acquired a secondary meaning by virtue of its continuous use in merchandise, clothing, and entertainment since the 1970s and the fame and popularity with respect to the association between the same and Evel Knievel.

134. Defendants have used, and continue to use Evel Knievel's trade dress in connection with the marketing, promotion, advertising, and sales of *Toy Story 4*, and in connection with the manufacturing, distribution, marketing, advertising, promotion, and sales of the Duke Caboom action figure.

135. Defendants' exploitation described immediately above is being done in a manner that is likely to cause confusion or mistake, or to deceive customers as to an affiliation, connection, or association between Evel Knievel and Duke Caboom.

136. Defendants' exploitation of Evel Knievel's trade dress was and is intentional and willful. Defendants used and continue to use Evel Knievel's trade dress with the knowledge that it was and is commercially exploiting the same for the purposes of promoting, marketing, and

1 selling *Toy Story 4*, and for the purposes of selling, offering for sale, and/or advertising and Duke  
2 Caboom merchandise.

3 137. Defendants' use of Evel Knievel's trade dress was and is in bad faith with the  
4 intent to cause confusion and/or to deceive customers.

5 138. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' trade dress infringement, K&K  
6 has suffered, and will continue to suffer, monetary damages in excess of \$75,000, and irreparable  
7 injury to its business, reputation, and goodwill.

8 139. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' trade dress infringement, K&K  
9 has been required to retain the services of an attorney and is entitled to an award of reasonable  
10 attorneys' fees and costs incurred in the litigation of this claim.

11 **FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
12 **(False Endorsement/False Description, 15 U.S.C. § 1125)**

13 140. K&K repeats, realleges, and incorporates the allegations set forth in the preceding  
14 paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

15 141. K&K is the owner of valid and protectable statutory and common-law trademark  
16 rights with respect to Evel Knievel Intellectual Property.

17 142. Defendants' unauthorized use in commerce of Evel Knievel's Intellectual Property  
18 in connection with Defendants' sale, promotion, advertising and marketing of *Toy Story 4*, and in  
19 connection with Defendants' manufacture, distribution, labeling, promotion, advertising, and  
20 sales of Duke Caboom merchandise constitutes a false designation of origin which is likely to  
21 cause confusion or mistake, or deceive as to affiliation, connection, or association with K&K as  
22 to the origin, sponsorship, or approval of Defendants' products and commercial activities.

23 143. Defendants' use in commerce of the Evel Knievel Intellectual Property with  
24 knowledge that K&K owns the exclusive right to the commercial use of the same, constitutes  
25 intentional conduct by Defendants to make false designations or origin and false descriptions  
26 regarding Defendants' products and commercial activities.

27

28

144. As a direct and proximate cause of such unfair competition, K&K has suffered, and will continue to suffer, monetary loss in excess of \$75,000, and irreparable injury to its business, reputation, and goodwill.

145. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' false endorsement, K&K has been required to retain the services of an attorney and is entitled to an award of reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred in the litigation of this claim.

**FIFTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
(Trademark Dilution, 15 U.S.C. § 1125)

146. K&K repeats, realleges, and incorporates the allegations set forth in the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

147. K&K is the owner of valid and protectable statutory and common-law trademark rights with respect to Evel Knievel Intellectual Property.

148. K&K's ownership of statutory and common-law trademark rights with respect to Evel Knievel Intellectual Property is famous by virtue of the Evel Knievel Stunt Cycle's record-breaking sales in the 1970s and world-wide popularity since that time, and Evel Knievel's earned status as a household name and readily identifiable wardrobe and reputation as the quintessential patriotic motorcycle stuntman.

149. Defendants have exploited, and continue to exploit for commercial gain Evel Knievel's image, likeness, and reputation in connection with the marketing, promotion, advertising, and sales of *Toy Story 4*, and in connection with the manufacturing, distribution, marketing, advertising, promotion, and sales of the Duke Caboom action figure.

150. Each event of Defendants' commercial exploitation, including but not limited to the making, distribution, and sale of *Toy Story 4* and the merchandising of Duke Caboom, took place after Evel Knievel and the Evel Knievel Stunt Cycle marks gained world-wide fame and commercial popularity.

151. Defendants' commercial promotion of Duke Caboom, through *Toy Story 4* and through merchandising Duke Caboom toys, is likely to, and has already caused dilution by blurring by significantly impairing any and all distinctiveness inherent in the Evel Knievel mark

1 and the Evel Knievel Stunt Cycle mark impeding the marks' ability to serve as a unique identifier  
2 of Evel Knievel Intellectual Property.

3 152. Defendants' commercial promotion of Duke Caboom, through *Toy Story 4* and  
4 through merchandising Duke Caboom toys, is likely to, and has already caused dilution by  
5 tarnishment by harming the reputation of Evel Knievel and the Evel Knievel Stunt Cycle by  
6 promoting and marketing Duke Caboom as a character and a toy, both of which are significantly  
7 inferior in quality to the Evel Knievel persona and the Evel Knievel Stunt Cycle.

8 153. As a direct and proximate cause of Defendants' trademark dilution, K&K has  
9 suffered, and will continue to suffer, monetary loss in excess of \$75,000, and irreparable injury  
10 to its business, reputation, and goodwill.

11 154. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' trademark dilution, K&K has been  
12 required to retain the services of an attorney and is entitled to an award of reasonable attorneys'  
13 fees and costs incurred in the litigation of this claim.

14 **SIXTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
15 **(Nevada Common Law Trademark Infringement/Unfair Competition)**

16 155. K&K repeats, realleges, and incorporates the allegations set forth in the preceding  
17 paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

18 156. K&K is the owner of valid and protectable statutory and common-law trademark  
19 rights with respect to Evel Knievel Intellectual Property.

20 157. Defendants' purported creation, Duke Caboom, both for use as a character in *Toy*  
21 *Story 4* and for merchandising purposes, is confusingly similar to the protected image and likeness  
22 of Evel Knievel and the Evel Knievel Stunt Cycle, respectively, and therefore likely to cause  
23 confusion or mistake, or deceive as to affiliation, connection, or association with K&K as to the  
24 origin, sponsorship, or approval of Defendants' products and commercial activities

25 158. Defendants' unauthorized use of Evel Knievel Intellectual Property for  
26 commercial exploitation was and is done in bad faith and with the intent to cause confusion and/or  
27 to deceive customers and, consequently, profit from the same.

28

159. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' unfair competition and trademark infringement, K&K has suffered, and will continue to suffer, monetary damages in excess of \$75,000, and irreparable injury to its business, reputation, and goodwill.

160. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' unfair competition and trademark infringement, K&K has been required to retain the services of an attorney and is entitled to an award of reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred in the litigation of this claim.

**SEVENTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
**(Nevada Common Law Unjust Enrichment)**

9           161. K&K repeats, realleges, and incorporates the allegations set forth in the preceding  
10 paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

11 162. K&K, as owner of Evel Knievel Intellectual Property, has conferred a benefit upon  
12 Defendants by promoting and maintaining the strength, validity, fame, and popularity of said  
13 intellectual property, including the goodwill and commercial value associated with the same.

14 163. Defendants, by virtue of their unauthorized incorporation of the Evel Knievel  
15 Intellectual Property into the character Duke Caboom and into its merchandising of the character  
16 has appreciated the benefits of this commercial exploitation.

17 164. Defendants have accepted and retained the benefits of its unauthorized use of Evel  
18 Knievel Intellectual Property by obtaining significant profits through the promotion and sale of  
19 *Toy Story 4* and the marketing and sale of Duke Caboom merchandise.

165. Under such circumstances, it would defy principles of equity and good conscience  
if Defendants were permitted to keep the monetary benefits associated with their unlawful use of  
Evel Knievel Intellectual Property.

23       166. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' retention of said monetary  
24 benefits, K&K has suffered, and will continue to suffer, monetary damages in the form of lost  
25 profits, licensing agreements, and/or commercial exploitation in excess of \$75,000, all of which  
26 rightfully belong to K&K.

167. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' being unjustly enriched, K&K has been required to retain the services of an attorney and is entitled to an award of reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred in the litigation of this claim.

## **PRAAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, K&K respectfully requests that this Court enter judgment in its favor and against Defendants and prays as follows:

a. An award of actual damages, compensatory damages, statutory damages, and profits stemming from Defendants' unlawful conduct in an amount to be determined at trial;

b. An award of exemplary/punitive damages owing to Defendants' willful appropriation and/or infringement, in an amount to be determined at trial;

c. An award of interest, costs, and attorneys' fees incurred by K&K in prosecuting this action; and

d. For other and further relief as this Court may deem just and proper.

DATED this 28th day of July, 2021

*/s/ J. Randall Jones*  
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